

## EASTERN EUROPE

THE SUNDAY STAR  
Washington, D. C., July 31, 1960

CPYRGHT

## Is Powers 'Brainwashed'?

By L. EDGAR PRINA  
Star Staff Writer

With the first public trial of an American by the Soviet Union scheduled for August 17, attention once again is being focused on the demonic practice of brainwashing or "coercive indoctrination," as the experts prefer to call it.

There is little doubt in high Government circles here, that Francis Gary Powers, pilot of the ill-fated U-2 airplane which crashed or was downed on May 1 deep inside Russia has been the target of the most skillful brainwashers in the USSR.

In fact, the feeling is strong here among students of these techniques of turning a man into a trained seal that Mr. Powers already has made an elaborate "confession" and probably has been put through one or more dress-rehearsal or "dry run" trials in preparation for the upcoming big production in Moscow.

Certainly, the Russians are believed to be determined to wring every last drop of propaganda advantage out of the trial and, at the same time, to use it as vehicle for renewed threats to the United States and its allies.

## Appears to Be Conforming

From public statements by Soviet officials and from the four or five letters the luckless Powers has written home to his wife and parents, he appears to be reacting and conforming in the way his captors desire.

In one reported statement, Mr. Powers was said to have asserted

he did not want to be represented by American attorneys. Of course, a defense attorney under the Russian legal system is allowed to be about as helpful as a deaf mute might be to the Robert Shaw chorale.

Again, Mr. Powers suggestion to his parents that they should postpone coming to the Soviet Union until after the trial would fit in with Russian desires.

The fact that the Russians announced a postponement of the trial from a July date to mid-August could indicate, according to American students of brainwashing techniques, that the Soviet State Police, or KGB, needed more time to "convince" Mr. Powers that his only way out was to co-operate and to make as certain as possible that he will not recant his confession in public.

Inasmuch as the United States and Mr. Powers have already admitted that the U-2 was sent over Russia on an aerial reconnaissance mission, the "confession" in court is hardly likely to be confined to a plea of guilty to this "crime".

Col. Albert J. Glass, chief of the psychiatry and neurology consultant division, office of the Army surgeon general, pointed out in an interview that the Russians have an obsession for details in the interrogation of prisoners.

Thus, he suggested, they may "persuade" Mr. Powers to implicate several of America's allies; to name fellow pilots and superior officers; to recall conversations and orders which may or may not ever have been held or received and to list every U-2 flight and its objective over the last four years.

How do the Russians carry on their "coercive indoctrination"?

First off, a common misconception ought to be laid to rest. Coercive indoctrination is not done with drugs, hypnosis, physical torture in the narrow sense or by any esoteric method. It is not a secret process. It is not a matter of Pavlovism although psychological principles are used.

It is simply a routinized procedure which grew out of old police methods, refined by the Communists, but not new with them.

Perhaps the best short study of these techniques was produced by Dr. Lawrence E. Hinkle, Jr., and Harold G. Wolff in the American Medical Association Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry of August, 1956. They explained it this way:

## Timetable for Police

The KGB officers are given a timetable in which to "settle the

case," i.e., produce a confession upon which a trial can be based. This is usually six weeks to three months from the time of the prisoners arrest. The victim is first put in a detention prison.

"The typical cell is a small cubicle, about 10 feet long by 6 feet wide, containing a single bunk and a slop jar. It usually has no other furnishings. Its walls are barren and it is lighted by a single electric lamp in the ceiling.

"One wall usually contains a small window above eye level, from which the prisoner can see nothing of his outside environment. The door contains a peephole through which the guard may observe the prisoner without the prisoner's knowledge."

The victim is broken down by a combination of physical deprivation, duress and uncertainty. He is isolated in a cell that is either too hot or too cold. He is forced to sleep in one position, with the ceiling light shining down on his face. He is awakened intermittently for questioning, usually just after he has dropped off to sleep. No one but his interrogator talks to him.

He is fed just enough food, far from appetizing, to keep body and soul together. He has nothing to read. Anxiety builds up. As the process continues, he becomes increasingly dejected and dependent. He ceases to care about his personal appearance and actions.

## Becomes Eager to Talk

"Finally, he sits and stares with a vacant expression. When food is presented to him . . . he may mix it into a mush and stuff it into his mouth like an animal. . . . He weeps, he mutters and he prays aloud in his cell. He follows the orders of the guard with the docility of a trained animal. It usually takes four to six weeks to produce this phenomenon in a newly imprisoned man."

When the victim is thoroughly demoralized, he becomes eager for the chance to talk. With the object a complete confession, the interrogator suddenly switches from the harsh to the seductive approach. He is really a friend who has the prisoner's best interest at heart. After all, he, the interrogator, is only doing his job. And, anyway, we know all about your crime.

The release from pressure is almost irresistible. Usually the victim produces what the interrogator desires. If he doesn't the harsh routine is resumed.

This thought of the immediate resumption of the interrogation regimen, with its serious disturbances of bodily processes, is the principal reason Soviet prisoners rarely ever recant their confessions, according to the KGB itself.